



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mrs. Maxine B. Russell

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank S. Bacio
Vito Cannella
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Maxine B. Russell

Others Present

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services
Jim Corbett, Assistant Chief, Commission Services
Audra Galang, Staff, Commission Services
Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Lt. A. J. Berner, L.A. County Sheriff's Department-Community Oriented Policing
Geoconda Burbano, Children and Family Services-Group Home Monitoring
Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller
Corina Torrero, L. A. County Sheriff's Department

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported that she received a copy of Commissioner Russell's letter to Supervisor Yaroslavsky requesting a 3-6 month leave of absence.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano assigned the inspection duties to Commissioners for the following weeks.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$887.00.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Jim Corbett reported the following:

1. The Board of Supervisors has approved \$225 for the registration of three Sybil Brand Commission members to attend the Aviva Family and Children's Services' 22nd Annual Conference on "Critical Issues of Adolescence". It will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2006 in Studio City, California.
2. Chair Montano and Vice Chair Stathatos have confirmed their attendance at the Aviva Conference. He will call the Aviva Center and inform them that a check for \$150 for two members will be mailed promptly.
3. Newspaper articles pulled from the Internet about the recent disturbances in the County's prisons were shared to the Commissioners.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS

- **Sheriff's Department:** Lt. A. J. Berner reported that VIDA deputies are being used as mentors. Commissioner Moore suggested that deputies could be role models or Big Brothers for youth and that should be more interaction between the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department and the group homes. In 2005, CAPs program had funded 99 deputies and in October deputies were sent out to unincorporated areas. Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra gave a brief update on recent prison incidents. There was a fire at Men's Central Jail in a small cell block. All inmates were transferred and Central Jail was locked down to temporarily avoid further violence. Female mental health patients are scheduled to be transferred from the Twin Towers facility beginning on March 25th.

- **Probation Department:** No representative was present.
- **Auditor-Controller's Office:** Ms. Candace Rhue reported that all follow up reports were completed. Commissioners were recommended to go to the Auditor's website to download the complete reports.
- **Department of Children and Family Services:** Ms. Geoconda Burbano reported the Department is indeed working closely with churches. The Commission will write a letter directed to David Sanders, Director, DCFS, to verify who will attend the quarterly Roundtable Meetings on his behalf. Ms. Burbano announced that use of Cleo's facility is on hold and that it is expected to be placed on the "Do Not Use" list. Also, Westside 1, 2, 3, 4 are on hold status and expected to be placed on the "Do Not Use" list. Vice Chair Stathatos requested a monthly "Do Not Use" list from the DCFS staff.
- **Department of Mental Health:** No representative was present.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the Department representatives for their attendance and informative presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006 MEETINGS

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 8, 2006 were approved with the following corrections:

Edward D. Edelman Children's Court

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this attractive Court on February 7th. ~~The Health Department inspected a day before and noted the lock up at floors 4 and 5 were clean and neat except the toilet bowls had residue and found the turn-out gear was~~ unsatisfactory as they are all size small.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montano received all the follow up reports and recommendations from the Auditor-Controller's Office. The reports will be reviewed by Chair Montano and she will report any inconsistencies to the Commission.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Girls and Boys Town of Southern California #47-1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on February 13th and noted that this quality transition home is in satisfactory condition.

Phoenix House #88-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on February 14th and noted no areas of concern. It is very well run and the building is in excellent condition with a large full-time staff. It has a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for children. Ms. Elizabeth Salazar, Executive Director, emphasizes the arts and displays artwork created by the residents. Some new beds have been ordered and the evacuation plan is being updated and will be displayed when complete.

Camp Holton

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Canella visited this facility on February 7th and noted the following area of concern: ceiling seriously damaged in bathroom in C dorm. The grounds are well maintained and the overall status of the 54-year old facility is very good. There is a school on the grounds, and it has a special projects training program. It was noted that all officers and staff are now wearing uniforms. The staff and the children displayed a show of mutual respect. Director Craig Levy is an exemplary director and has received many awards throughout his career.

Family Solutions #38-1

Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on January 19th, found no one at home, and no report was done.

Caring for Babies With Aids #9-3

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on February 9th, and found the facility has stopped caring for babies since August 2005. The site is nice, clean and newly painted. The new Executive Director Stephanie Idler is changing the name and license to Children's Circle.

Caring for Babies With Aids #10-1

Commissioners Bacio and Moore inspected this facility on February 9th, found no areas of concern and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Home #46-2

Commissioner Bacio revisited this facility on February 14th and gave the corrective action plan. He found two fire extinguishers needed to be inspected, the smoke alarms needed replacing and the facility needs some painting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Corbett/Audra Galang
Commission Services Staff